

it does not apply where the fund or company specializes in a particular industry or commodity.

(2) Interest in an investment club or other group organized for the purpose of investing in equity or debt securities: *Provided*, That the fair value of the interest involved does not exceed \$10,000 and that the interest does not exceed one-fourth of the total assets of the investment club or group. Where an employee covered by this exemption is a member of a group organized for the purpose of investing in equity or debt securities, the interest of the employee in any enterprise in which the group holds securities shall be based upon the employee's equity share of the holdings of the group in that enterprise.

(3) If an employee, or the employee's spouse or minor child has a present beneficial interest or a vested remainder interest under a trust, the ownership of stocks, bonds, or other corporate securities under the trust will be exempt to the same extent as provided in paragraphs (c)(1) and (2) of this section for the direct ownership of such securities. The ownership of bonds other than corporate bonds, or of shares in a mutual fund or regulated investment company, under the trust will be equally exempt and to the same extent as under paragraphs (c) (1) and (2) of this section.

(4) If an employee is an officer, director, trustee, or employee of an educational institution, or if the employee is negotiating for, or has an arrangement concerning prospective employment with such an institution, a direct financial interest which the institution has in any matter will not itself be exempt, but any financial interest that the institution may have in the matter through its holdings of securities issued by business entities will be exempt: *Provided*, The employee is not serving as a member of the investment committee of the institution or is not otherwise advising it on its investment portfolio.

(5) An employee may continue to participate in a bona fide pension, retirement, group life, health or accident insurance plan, or other employee welfare or benefit plan that is maintained by a business or nonprofit organization by which the employee was formerly

employed. Such financial interest in that organization will be exempt, except to the extent that the welfare or benefit plan is a profit-sharing or stock-bonus plan and the employee's financial interest thereunder exceeds \$10,000. This exemption extends also to any financial interests that the organization may have in other business activities.

(d) Nothing in this part shall be deemed to prohibit an employee from acting, with or without compensation, as agent or attorney for the employee's parents, spouse, child, or any person for whom, or for any estate for which, the employee is serving as guardian, executor, administrator, trustee, or other personal fiduciary, except in those matters in which the employee has participated personally and substantially as a Government employee, through decision, approval, disapproval, recommendation, the rendering of advice, investigation, or otherwise, or which are the subject of the employee's official responsibility, as defined in 18 U.S.C. 202(b): *Provided*, The head of the employee's division approves in writing.

§ 10.735-206 Economic and financial activities of employees abroad.

(a) *Prohibitions in any foreign country.* A U.S. citizen employee abroad is specifically prohibited from engaging in the activities listed below in any foreign country.

(1) Speculation in currency exchange.

(2) Transactions at exchange rates differing from local legally available rates, unless such transactions are duly authorized in advance by the agency.

(3) Sales to unauthorized persons (whether at cost or for profit) of currency acquired at preferential rates through diplomatic or other restricted arrangements.

(4) Transactions which entail the use, without official sanction, of the diplomatic pouch.

(5) Transfers of funds on behalf of blocked nationals, or otherwise in violation of U.S. foreign funds and assets control.

(6) Independent and unsanctioned private transactions which involve an employee as an individual in violation of

Department of State

§ 10.735–208

applicable control regulations of foreign governments.

(7) Acting as a intermediary in the transfer of private funds from persons in one country to persons in another country, including the United States.

(8) Permitting use of one's official title in any private business transactions or in advertisements for business purposes.

(b) *Prohibitions in country of assignment.* (1) A U.S. citizen employee shall not transact or be interested in any business or engage for profit in any profession or undertake other gainful employment in any country or countries to which the employee is assigned or detailed in the employee's own name or through the agency of any other person; exceptions may be made with respect to chiefs of mission only in writing by the Deputy Under Secretary for Management and for all other State employees by the appropriate chief of mission; for AID employees by the assistant administrator of the regional bureau or head of the nonregional organization, as appropriate; and for ICA employees by the Director of Personnel Services, or their designees (see 22 U.S.C. 805).

(2) A U.S. citizen employee shall not invest in real estate or mortgages on properties located in the employee's country of assignment. The purchase of a house and land for personal occupancy is not considered a violation of this paragraph.

(3) A U.S. citizen employee shall not invest money in bonds, shares or stocks of commercial concerns headquartered in the country of assignment or conducting a substantial portion of their business in such country. Such investments, if made prior to knowledge of assignment or detail to such country or countries, may be retained during such assignment or detail when approved in writing by the appropriate official named in paragraph (b)(1) of this section. If retention is authorized, such stocks, shares, or bonds may not be sold while the employee is assigned or detailed to the country or countries, unless the agency approved the sale in writing.

(4) A U.S. citizen employee shall not sell or dispose of personal property, including automobiles, at prices pro-

ducing profits to the employee which result primarily from import privileges derived from the employee's official status as an employee of the U.S. Government. Employees of State and ICA are referred to Foreign Affairs Manual Circular 378; for AID see Handbook 23, Attachment 1B.

(c) *Acceptance of employment by members of family abroad.* Family members of Foreign Service personnel may accept gainful employment in a foreign country unless such employment (1) would violate any law of such country or of the U.S.; or (2) could damage the interests of the U.S., as certified in writing to the family member by the Chief of the U.S. Diplomatic Mission in such country. A copy of such certification will be sent to the Family Liaison Office (M/FLO), Department of State. Family members accepting employment abroad should bear in mind that they may not enjoy immunity from judicial process and would be subject to the payment to taxes derived from their nondiplomatic employment.

(d) *Business activities of non-U.S. citizen employees.* A non-U.S. citizen employee abroad may engage in outside business activities with the prior approval of the head of the overseas establishment on the basis of the standards expressed in § 10.735-204(a).

§ 10.735-207 Use of Government property.

An employee shall not directly or indirectly use, or allow the use of Government property of any kind, including property leased to the Government, for other than officially approved activities. An employee has a positive duty to protect and conserve Government property, including equipment, supplies, and other property entrusted or issued to the employee.

§ 10.735-208 Misuse of information.

For the purpose of furthering a private interest, an employee shall not, except as provided in § 10.735-204(c) directly or indirectly use, or allow the use of, official information obtained through or in connection with Government employment which has not been made available to the general public.